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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/623,951 | 07/21/2003 | John D. Youngs | 1-73990 | 4618 |

27377 7590 06/30/2005

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| EXAMINER |
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ORTIZ, ANGELA Y

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1732

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/623,951

Applicant(s)

YOUNGS ET AL.

Examiner

Angela Ortiz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/2/05; 7/21/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8,10,11,14-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato et al., US 2003/0067100 A1.

The cited reference teaches the claimed method of heating a material 1, which may be a laminate of foam and other plastic materials, and placing the heated material within a patterned mold cavity between male die 8, readable on a core, and a female die 9. The laminate is drawn by vacuum into the cavity, and a resin is supplied to the mold cavity by injection or low pressure, thus forming a composite with a patterned surface. Note that the vacuum drawing step is readable on providing a formed material prior to injecting. Note that all materials used are thermoplastic, and may include olefin elastomer, polypropylene foam, and polyethylene for example. See paragraphs [0017], [0018], [0020-0022], [0026-0029].

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Claims 2, 7, 9, 12, 13, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yabe et al., USP 4,898,706.

The cited reference teaches the claimed method of forming a decorative article comprising providing a synthetic resin molded article having a decorative pattern such as indicia formed on its surface; note that the article consists mainly of the injected resin, and not the decorative sheet, thus meeting claim 13. A film is provided within a heated mold cavity having a patterned surface, and a heated resin is supplied to the mold cavity wherein the film is elongated and pressed into the cavity surface by the resin thus forming a patterned composite article. An adhesive layer may be provided on the film to ensure bonding to the resin. See col. 1, lines 60-65; col. 2, lines 29-30, 32-45, 47-50, 60-63; col. 4, lines 29-31.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

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not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al., US 2003/0067100 A1.

The cited reference substantially teaches the basic claimed method of heating a material 1, which may be a laminate of foam and other plastic materials, and placing the heated material within a patterned mold cavity between male die 8, readable on a core, and a female die 9. The laminate is drawn by vacuum into the cavity, and a resin is supplied to the mold cavity by injection or low pressure, thus forming a composite with a patterned surface. Note that the vacuum drawing step is readable on providing a formed material prior to injecting. Note that all materials used are thermoplastic, and may include olefin elastomer, polypropylene foam, and polyethylene for example. See paragraphs [0017], [0018], [0020-0022], [0026-0029].

The cited reference does not teach pouring.

Note that the reference discloses injection at low pressure at paragraph [0029]. Pouring is conventional in the art and is deemed equivalent to low pressure molding applications. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to pour the resin into the mold for avoiding crushing of the laminate or other damage caused by injection pressures.

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Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. USP's 4985194; 5292465; 5571598; 6086810; 6159402.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela Ortiz whose telephone number is 571-272-1206. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaianni can be reached on 571-272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Angela Ortiz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

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